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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2-8 and 10-16 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicants cancel claims 1 and 9 and amend claims 2, 3, 5-8, 10, 11, and 13-16.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 3, 4, 11 and 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 7, 9, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hoffman (US 2005/0051859). Claims 2, 5, 10 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoffman in view of Glenn et al. (U.S. 6,528,869). Claims 6 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoffman in view of Thomas (US 2004/0084738).

Applicants have amended allowable claim 3 to be in independent form including all of the features of claim 1, and have amended allowable claim 11 to be in independent form including all of the features of claim 9. In addition, Applicants have canceled claims 1 and 9, and amended claims 2, 5-8, 10 and 13-16 to be dependent upon allowable claims 3 and 11. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art rejections of claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9, 10 and 13-16 are moot.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3 and 11 are allowable. Claims 2, 4-8, 10 and 12-16 depend upon claims 3 and 11, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons that claims 3 and 11 are allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are solicited.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

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